LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.(currently amended) A method for evaluating and distributing workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units comprising the steps of:

calculating a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ current workload unit assigned for each of a plurality of computing systems in a processing environment each computer system having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units, wherein said calculating of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date by assigning an impact number representing the number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be changed should ~~an existing~~ the current workload unit be removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same;

determining the impact of moving the ~~existing~~ current workload unit from a donor computer system to a recipient computer system based on said impact values; and

reassigning ~~the existing~~ workload in the processing environment by moving at least one of said plurality of assigned current workload units to change expiration dates of at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

2-3.(canceled)

4.(currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising sorting said ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units based on said impact values into a sorted impact list.

5.(canceled)

6.(previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising comparing the expiration date of each of said plurality of computing systems to at least one target service date for servicing each of said plurality of computing systems.

7.(currently amended) The method of Claim 6 further comprising altering ~~the existing~~ workload in the processing environment to change the expiration date relative to the target service date for at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

8.(currently amended) The method of Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
creating a From list of computer systems for which the expiration date precedes the at least one service date;

creating a To list of computer systems for which the expiration date is later than said at least one service date; and

reassigning ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units from computer systems on said From list to computer systems on said To list based on said impact values.

9.(original) The method of Claim 8 further comprising calculating new expiration dates for computer systems on said From and said To lists after said reassigning.

10.(currently amended) Apparatus for evaluating and distributing workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> assigned workload units comprising:

an administrative processor comprising:

an impact value component for calculating a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit assigned to each of a plurality of computing systems in a processing environment each computer system having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units, wherein said calculating of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date by assigning an impact number representing the number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be

changed should ~~an existing~~ a current workload unit be removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same; and

a processing component for determining the impact of moving the ~~existing~~ current workload unit from a donor computer system to a recipient computer system based on said impact values and for reassigning ~~the~~ workload in the processing environment by moving at least one of said plurality of assigned current workload units to change expiration dates of at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

11.(original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising at least one storage location accessible by the administrative processor for storing data relating to said plurality of computer systems.

12.(currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine storing a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for evaluating and distributing ~~existing~~ workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned current workload units, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ current workload unit assigned for each of

a plurality of computing systems of a processing environment each computer system having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units, wherein said calculating of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date by assigning an impact number representing the number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be changed if ~~existing~~ <u>a current</u> workload unit is removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same;

determining the impact of moving the ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit from a donor computer system to a recipient computer system based on said impact values; and

reassigning ~~the~~ workload in the processing environment <u>by moving at least one of said plurality of assigned current workload units</u> to change expiration dates of at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

13. (currently amended) The device of Claim 12 wherein the method further comprises sorting said ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units based on said impact values into a sorted impact list.

14. (canceled)

15.(previously presented) The device of Claim 12 wherein the method further comprises comparing the expiration date of each of said plurality of computing systems to at least one target service date for servicing each of said plurality of computing systems.

16.(previously presented) The device of Claim 15 wherein the method further comprises altering the workload in the processing environment to change the expiration date relative to the target service date for at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

17.(previously presented) The device of Claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
creating a From list of computer systems for which the expiration date precedes the at least one service date;
creating a To list of computer systems for which the expiration date is later than said at least one service date; and
reassigning workload units from computer systems on said From list to computer systems on said To list based on said impact values.

18.(original) The device of Claim 17 wherein the method further comprises calculating new expiration dates for

computer systems on said From and said To lists after said
reassigning.

19-20.(canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method for evaluating and
distributing workload across a processing environment having
a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of
assigned workload units comprising the steps of:
(a) obtaining a list of a plurality of computer systems in a
processing environment having a plurality of computer
systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ current
workload units;
(b) assigning a key service date for each computer system on
said list of a plurality of computer systems;
(c) determining a system expiration date for each computer
system based on assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units;
(d) comparing the determined system expiration date to the
key service date for each computer system;
(e) adding a computer system to a Fromlist on a move table
when the determined system expiration date is earlier than
the key service date for said computer system;

(f) adding a computer system to a Tolist on a move table when the determined system expiration date is later than the key service date for said computer system;

(g) evaluating the impact of moving at least one ~~existing~~ current workload unit from a selected computer system on the Fromlist to a selected computer system on the Tolist;

(h) repeating steps (c) to (g) until all Fromlist entries have been evaluated; and

(i) reassigning ~~existing~~ workload on said selected computer systems by moving at least one said plurality of assigned current workload units.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein said evaluating impact comprises the steps of:

selecting a computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated;

assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ current workload unit assigned to the selected computer system on the Fromlist, wherein each impact value represents a number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be changed if the workload unit was removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same;

identifying at least one selected ~~existing~~ current workload unit on said selected computer system on the Fromlist for which removal of the at least one selected unit would move

the expiration data of the computer system to later than its key service date; and

recalculating expiration date for a selected computer system on the Tolist should the at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit be moved from said selected computer system on the Fromlist to the selected computer system on the Tolist based on the impact value of said at least one selected <u>current</u> workload unit;

determining that the at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit should be moved if the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is later than its key service date; and

selecting a different computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated when the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is earlier than its key service date.

23. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine storing a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for evaluating and distributing workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a list of a plurality of computer systems in a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units;

(b) assigning a key service date for each computer system on said list of a plurality of computer systems;

(c) determining a system expiration date for each computer system based on assigned ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload units;

(d) comparing the determined system expiration date to the key service date for each computer system;

(e) adding a computer system to a Fromlist on a move table when the determined system expiration date is earlier than the key service date for said computer system;

(f) adding a computer system to a Tolist on a move table when the determined system expiration date is later than the key service date for said computer system;

(g) evaluating the impact of moving at least one ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit from a selected computer system on the Fromlist to a selected computer system on the Tolist;

(h) repeating steps (c) to (g) until all Fromlist entries have been evaluated; and

(i) reassigning workload on said selected computer systems <u>by moving at least one of said plurality of assigned current workload units</u> based on said evaluating.

24. (currently amended) The program storage device of Claim 23 wherein said evaluating impact comprises the steps of:

selecting a computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated;

assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ current workload unit assigned to the selected computer system on the Fromlist, wherein each impact value represents a number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be changed if the ~~existing~~ current workload unit was removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same;

identifying at least one selected ~~existing~~ current workload unit on said selected computer system on the Fromlist for which removal of the at least one selected unit would move the expiration data of the computer system to later than its key service date; and

recalculating expiration date for a selected computer system on the Tolist should the at least one selected ~~existing~~ current workload unit be moved from said selected computer system on the Fromlist to the selected computer system on the Tolist based on the impact value of said at least one selected ~~existing~~ current workload unit;

determining that the at least one selected ~~existing~~ current workload unit should be moved if the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is later than its key service date; and

selecting a different computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated when the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is earlier than its key service date.

25. (currently amended) Apparatus for evaluating and distributing workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units comprising:

an administrative processor comprising:

a processing component for

(a) obtaining a list of a plurality of computer systems in a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units;

(b) assigning a key service date for each computer system on said list of a plurality of computer systems;

(c) determining a system expiration date for each computer system based on assigned ~~existing~~ current workload units;

(d) comparing the determined system expiration date to the key ~~planning~~ service date for each computer system;

(e) adding a computer system to a Fromlist on a move table when the determined system expiration date is earlier than the key service date for said computer system;

(f) adding a computer system to a Tolist on a move table when the determined system expiration date is later than the key service date for said computer system;

(g) evaluating the impact of moving at least one ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit from a selected computer system on the Fromlist to a selected computer system on the Tolist;

(h) repeating steps (c) to (g) until all Fromlist entries have been evaluated; and

(i) reassigning workload on said selected computer systems <u>by moving at least one of said plurality of assigned current workload units</u> based on said evaluating.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein said administrative processor comprises an impact value component for:

selecting a computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated;

assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit assigned to the selected computer system on the Fromlist, wherein each impact value represents a number of days that the expiration date of the computer system would be changed if the workload unit was removed from the system with all other workload units remaining the same;

identifying at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit on said selected computer system on the Fromlist for

which removal of the at least one selected unit would move the expiration data of the computer system to later than its key service date; and

recalculating expiration date for a selected computer system on the Tolist should the at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit be moved from said selected computer system on the Fromlist to the selected computer system on the Tolist based on the impact value of said at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit;

determining that the at least one selected ~~existing~~ <u>current</u> workload unit should be moved if the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is later than its key service date; and

selecting a different computer system on the Tolist to be evaluated when the recalculated expiration date of the selected computer system on the Tolist is earlier than its key service date.